

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An ink for ink jet recording, which comprises a dye having:

a λ_{\max} in an aqueous solution of from 390 nm to 470 nm; and

a $I(\lambda_{\max} + 70 \text{ nm}) / I(\lambda_{\max})$ ratio of not more than 0.4, in which $I(\lambda_{\max})$ is the absorbance at λ_{\max} and $I(\lambda_{\max} + 70 \text{ nm})$ is the absorbance at $(\lambda_{\max} + 70 \text{ nm})$, the dye being dissolved and/or dispersed in an aqueous medium, and the dye is represented by formula (1),



wherein A and B each independently represents a heterocyclic group which may be substituted,

wherein the ink has a forced fading rate constant of not greater than $5.0 \times 10^{-2} \text{ [hour}^{-1}\text{]}$, in which the forced fading rate constant is decided by printing the ink on a reflection type medium, thereafter measuring a reflection density through a Status A filter, specifying one point having a reflection density (D_B) in an yellow region of 0.90 to 1.10 as an initial density of the ink, forcedly fading the printed matter by use of an ozone fading tester that can regularly generate 5 ppm of ozone, and determining the time taken until the reflection density reaches 80% of the initial density, and

the total amount of a cation in said ink except for a monovalent metal ion, a hydrogen ion, an ammonium ion, an organic quaternary nitrogen ion and an ion produced by the proton addition to a nitrogen atom in a basic organic material is 0.5 wt% or less.

2. (original): The ink for ink jet recording according to claim 1, wherein the λ_{max} in an aqueous solution of the dye is 390 nm to 470 nm, and the $I(\lambda_{\text{max}} + 70 \text{ nm}) / I(\lambda_{\text{max}})$ ratio is not more than 0.2.

3. (original): The ink for ink jet recording according to claim 1, wherein the oxidation potential of the dye is more noble than 1.0 V (vs SCE).

4. (canceled).

5. (original): The ink for ink jet recording according to claim 1, which comprises a lithium ion.

6. (canceled).

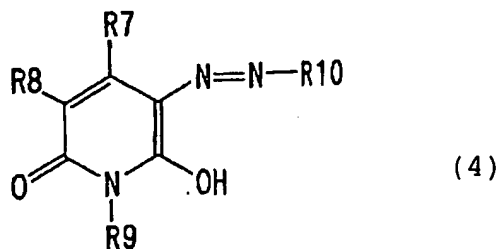
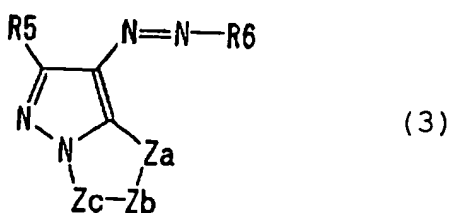
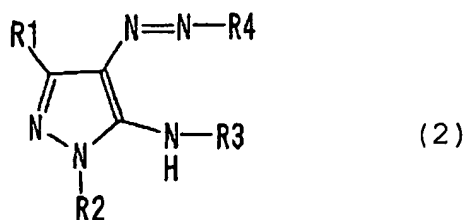
7. (original): The ink for ink jet recording according to claim 1, wherein the cation in said ink except for a monovalent metal ion, a hydrogen ion, an ammonium ion, an organic quaternary nitrogen ion and an ion produced by the proton addition to a nitrogen atom in a basic organic

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material is at least one selected from the group consisting of magnesium ion, zinc ion, calcium ion, strontium ion, aluminum ion and a transition metal ion.

8. (canceled).

9. (currently amended): The ink for ink jet recording according to claim ~~4~~1, wherein the dye represented by the formula (1) is at least one of dyes represented by the following formulae (2), (3) and (4):



wherein R1 and R3 each represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aralkyl group, an alkoxy group, an alkyl thio group, an aryl thio group, an aryl group, or an ionic hydrophilic group; R2 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aralkyl group, a carbamoyl group, an acyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group; R4 represents a heterocyclic group;

R5 represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aralkyl group, an alkoxy group, an alkyl thio group, an aryl thio group, an aryl group or an ionic

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hydrophilic group; Z_a represents -N=, -NH- or -C(R₁₁)=; Z_b and Z_c each independently represents -N= or -C(R₁₁)=; R₁₁ represents a hydrogen atom or a non-metal substituent; R₆ represents a heterocyclic group,

R₇ and R₉ each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, an alkyl group, an a cycloalkyl group, aralkyl group, an aryl group, an alkyl thio group, an aryl thio group, an alkoxy carbonyl group, a carbamoyl group, or an ionic hydrophilic group; R₈ represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, an aryl group, an aryloxy group, a cyano group, an acylamino group, a sulfonylamino group, an alkoxy carbonylamino group, an ureido group, an alkyl thio group, an aryl thio group, an alkoxy carbonyl group, a carbamoyl group, a sulfamoyl group, an alkylsulfonyl group, an aryl sulfonyl group, an acyl group, an amino group, a hydroxy group or an ionic hydrophilic group; R₁₀ represents a heterocyclic group.

10. (original): An ink set comprising the ink for ink jet recording according to claim 1.

11. (canceled).